(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the State Electricity Boards continue to hold monopoly of the power distributing system in the country; and

(c) if so, the States in the country where the responsibility of distributing power rests with more than two orgnizations and the States where monopoly of power distributing still continues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides for open access in transmission from the outset. Section 42 of the Act provides that the State Regulatory Commissions shall introduce open access in distribution in phases having due regard to all relevant factors including cross subsidy and other operational constraints. The Act further provides that open access to all consumers, who require a supply of electricity, where the maximum power to be made available at any time exceeds one megawatt, be provided not later than 27th January 2009.

The Act also provides that the Appropriate Commission may grant a license to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area.

(b) Distribution of electricity under the Act is a licensed activity and the license is granted by the Appropriate Regulatory Commission.

(c) As per available information, the States in which the responsibility of distributing power rests with more than one organization are West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Kerala.

Electrified villages under RGGVY

4453. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN. Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of a electrified villages under Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;

(b) the number of non-electrified villages in the country State-wise; and

(c) the time schedule to complete the rural electrification?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As per new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05):

"A village would be declared as electrified if—

(i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/ham let where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary).

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres etc. and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village."

(b) State-wise details of status of village electrification is given in the Statement. [Rafer to the Statement approved to the Answer Unstarred Question No. 4444]

(c) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Households in five years. The scheme would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

The scheme aims at completing electrification of all un-electrified villages and un-electrified hamlets in next five years.

PGC power projects in Karnataka

4454. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power projects so far taken up in Karnataka by Power Grid Corporation;